

Is Meaningful Community Involvement Radical?

A Case Study of the Duwamish River



Technical Advisory Group

2014 National Training Conference on the
Toxics Release Inventory and
Environmental Conditions in Communities

May 7, 2014

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Program Manager

Duwamish River



History & current state



In 2001, the EPA listed the Duwamish River as one of America's most toxic waste sites.

Duwamish now on cleanup list
Badly polluted waterway designated a Superfund site
BY LARRY LANGR
2/11/2001

Region 10: The Pacific Northwest
Serving the people of Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, Washington and 270 Native Tribes

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

News Release
EPA Study Confirms Contamination in Lower Duwamish River
April 21, 1999

For Immediate Release
The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency today announced that the Duwamish River waterway contains high levels of contaminants such as PCBs, heavy metals, and organotins (an additive in marine paints).

Map: SUPERFUND SITE
SEATTLE
Duwamish Watershed
Northern boundary
Southern boundary



Pollutants over WA

environmental/health standards

Lead
Mercury
Arsenic
Cadium
Chromium
Copper
Silver
Zinc
PCBs
Dioxins
Anthracene
Flourene
Flournthene
Napthalene
Phenol

Pyrene
Pentachlorophenol
N-Nitrosodiphenylamine
Benzo(ghi)perylene
Benzoic acid
Benzyl Acid
Benyl alchohol
Dibenzofuran
Hexachlorobenzene
cPAHs:
- Benz(a)anthracene
- Benzo(a)pyrene
- Benzo(b,k)flourathenes
- Dibenz(a,h)anthracene
- Indeno (1,2,3-cd)pyrene
- Chrysene

Acenaphthene
Acenaphthylene
1,2,4-trichlorobenzene
1,4-dichlorobenzene
2.4-dimethylphenol
2-methylnaphthalene
Diethyl phthalate
Di-n-octyl phthalate
Butybenzyl phthalate
Phenathrene

WARNING

Bottom-feeding fish, crab and shellfish may be unsafe to eat due to pollution.

El consume de pescado del mar, cangrejos y mariscos puede ser peligroso debido a la contaminación.

Có thể không an toàn để ăn cá dưới đáy biển, cua và hải sản vỏ cứng vì bị ô nhiễm.

ត្រូវដែលស៊ីកំទេចសំណល់នៅបាតសមុទ្ររួមទាំងក្ដាម និងសត្វសមុទ្រសន្តានខ្លា, ឡូង, ល្បែស, ត្រី។ល។...បរិភោគអាចមានគ្រោះថ្នាក់ ដោយសារកំទេចសំណល់ទាំងអស់នោះក្រឡក់ ។

ປາຢູ່ພື້ນນ້ຳ, ກະປູ ແລະ ຫອຍອາດຈະບໍ່ປອດພ້ຍທີ່ຈະກິນຍ້ອນນ້ຳປ້ອນ

由於污染，底棲魚、螃蟹和有殼水生物可能食用不安全。

오염으로 인해, 바닥 어류, 게 및 조개를 섭취하는 것이 해가 될 수 있습니다.

В связи с загрязнением среды рыбы, которые обитают на дне, а также крабы, моллюски и ракообразные могут быть небезопасны для употребления в пищу.



It is not safe to eat even a single meal of resident seafood from the Duwamish River

Impacted Communities

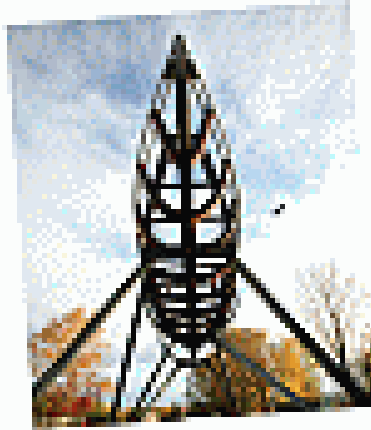


Community Involvement (prior to the Proposed Cleanup Plan)

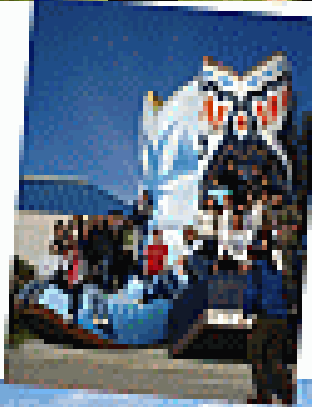
Superfund designation & Early Action sites (hot spots)



Duwamish Valley Vision Plan



**Duwamish Valley
Vision Map &
Report
2009**



Healthy Communities Projects

Duwamish Valley Healthy Communities Project

Improving environmental and human health through

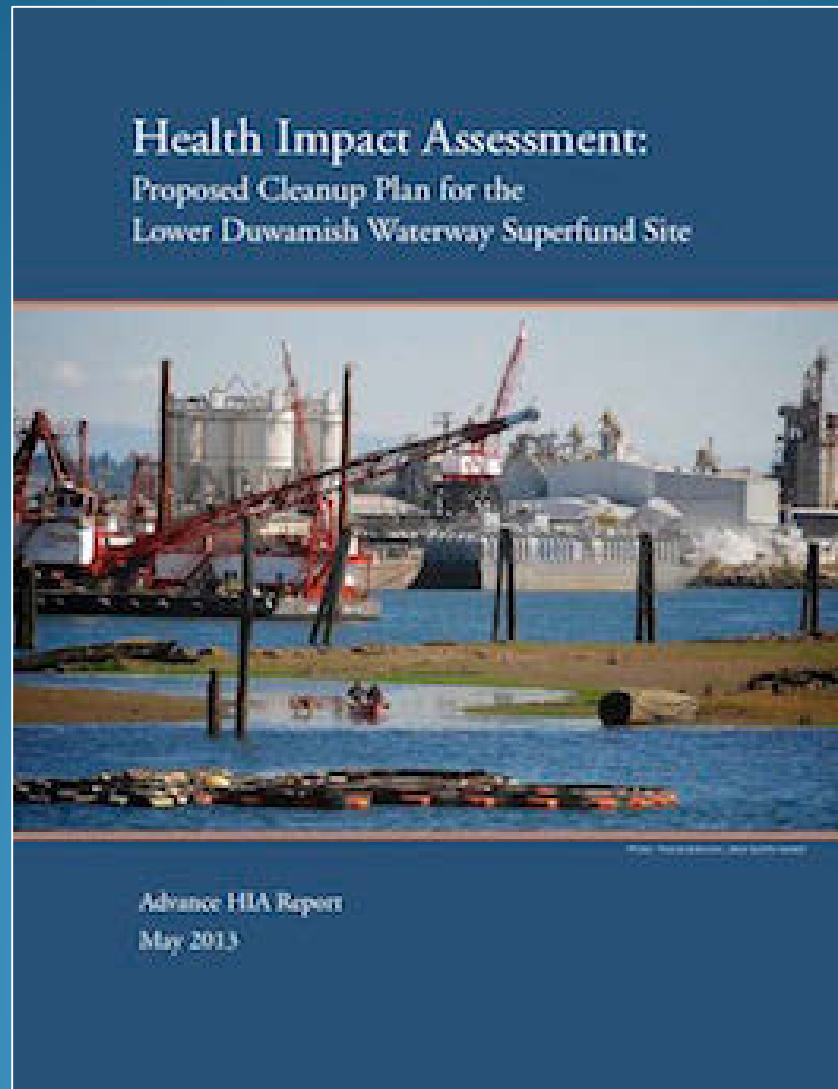
- *community-based research*
- *promoting protective and equitable policies*
- *taking action!*



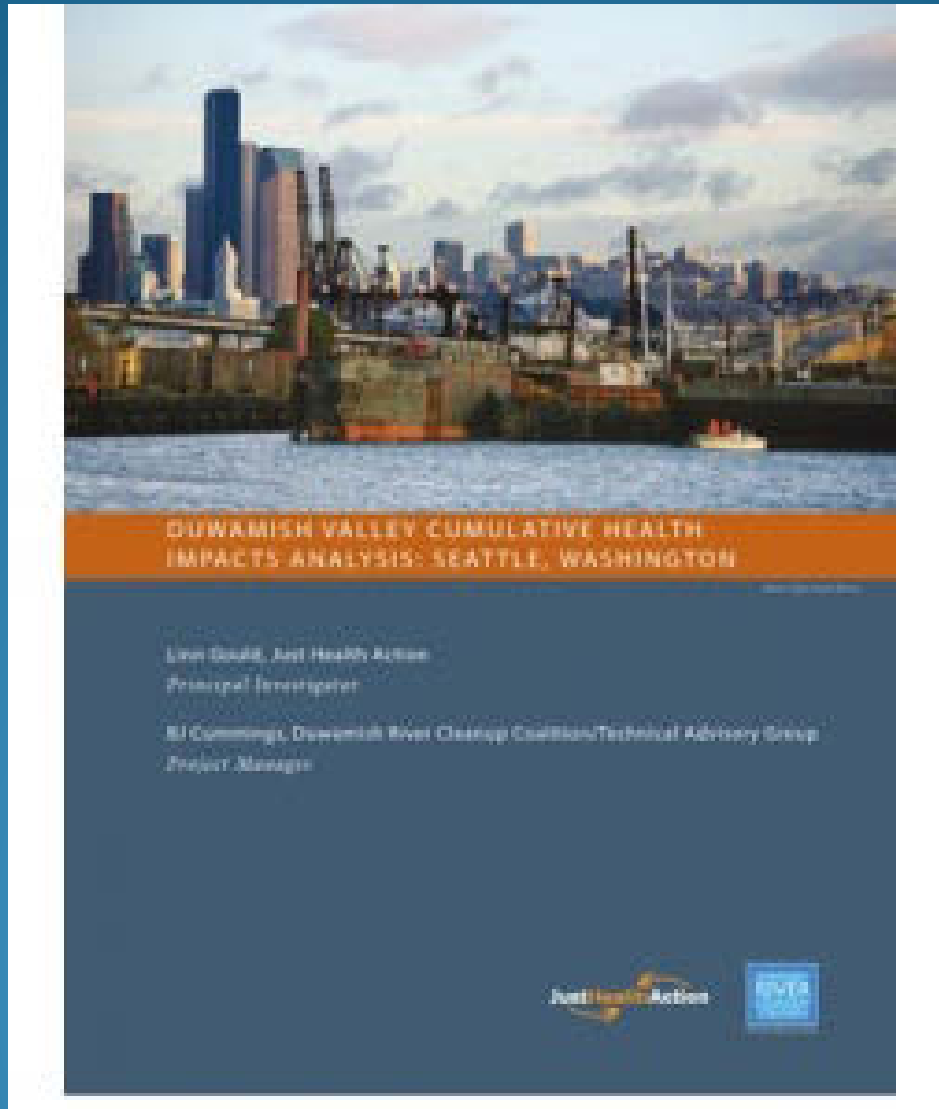
1. Community Action for a Renewed Environment



2. Health Impact Assessment (HIA)



3. Cumulative Health Impact Analysis



Proposed Cleanup Plan

Four Objectives of the Cleanup



1. Protect health of people who eat seafood
2. Protect health of people who have contact with sediments
3. Protect health of fish and wildlife
4. Protect health of benthic fauna

Proposed Plan

Lower Duwamish Waterway Superfund Site



United States

Environmental Protection Agency

Region 10

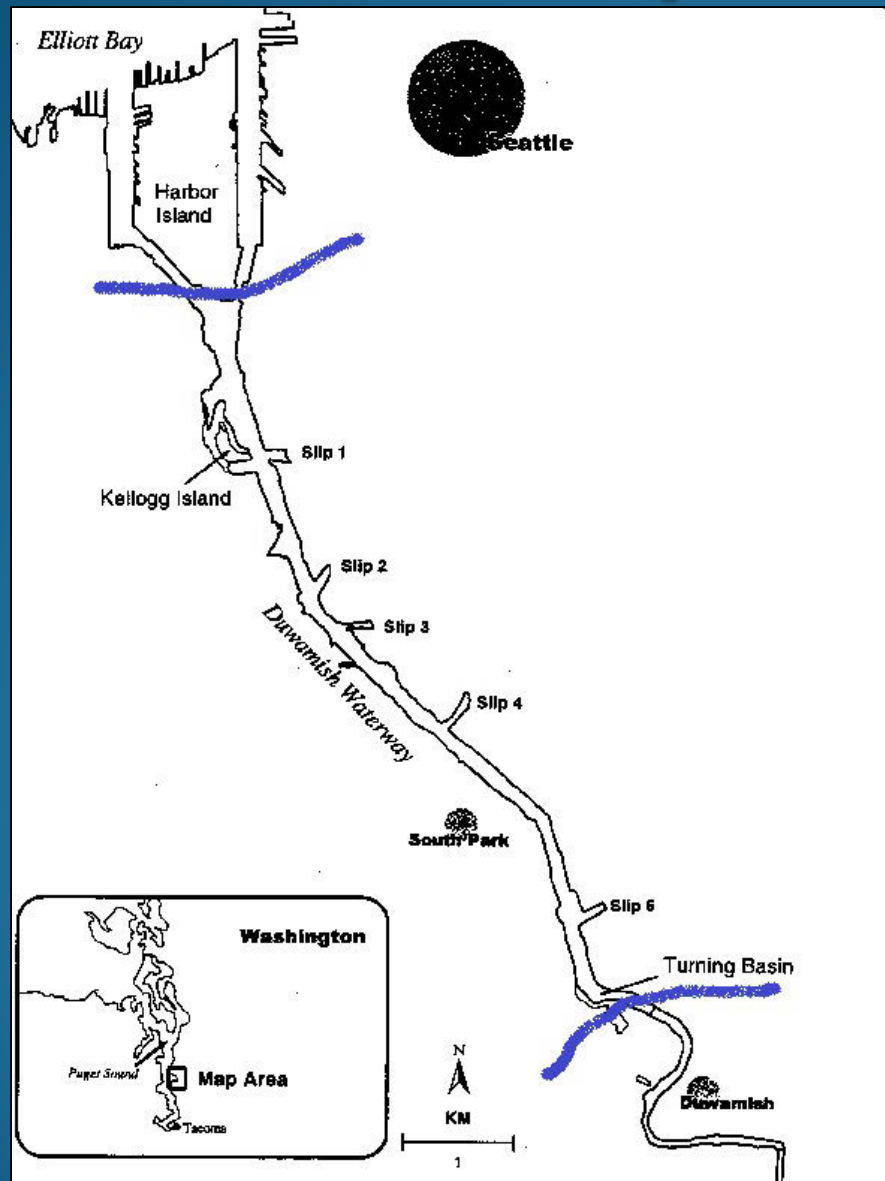
February 28, 2013

Four Objectives of the Cleanup



- ~~1. Protect health of people who eat seafood~~
2. Protect health of people who have contact with sediments???
3. Protect health of fish and wildlife
4. Protect health of benthic fauna

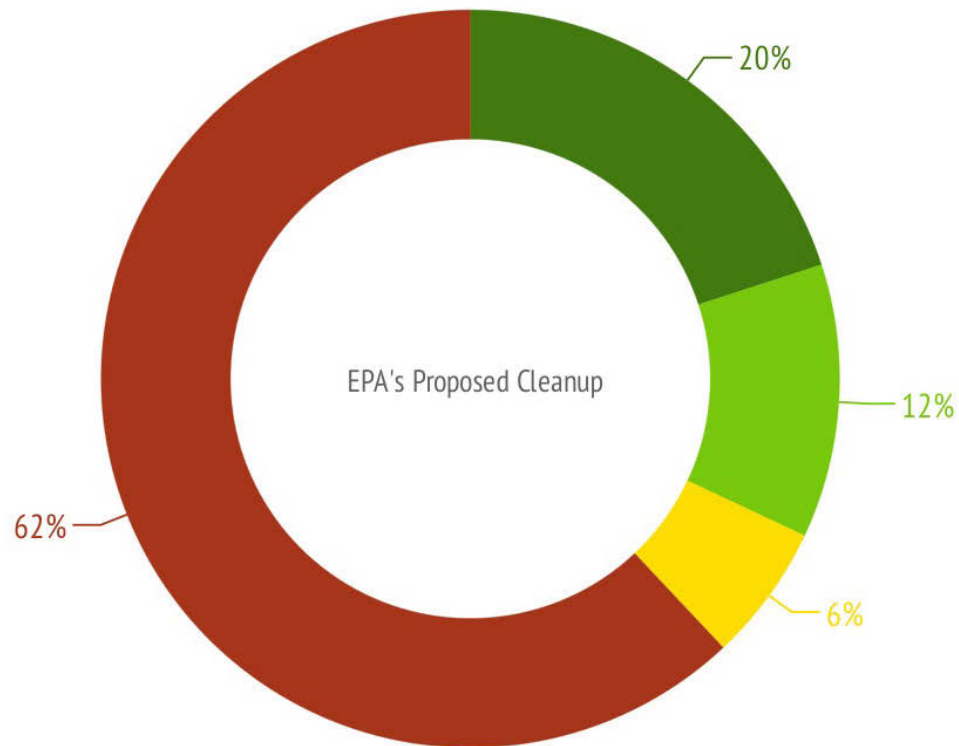
EPA's Cleanup Plan Summary



- 5.5 miles
- Total area to be remediated:
412 acres

EPA's Proposed Cleanup Plan

● EPA's Proposed Cleanup ○ DRCC/TAG's Recommended Cleanup Plan



Dredging Enhanced Natural Recovery Capping Monitored Natural Recovery

**Is this good
enough?**

(Let's ask the community)

About our community involvement and communication strategy

(our work plan in detail, public comments
collection and more)

DRCC/TAG's Community Involvement and Communication Strategy

Work plan:



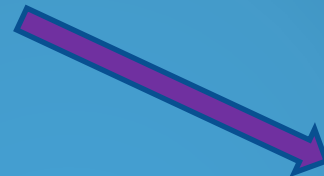
5



16



25



5

How did we spread the word?

1. River Festival
2. E-Newsletters
3. Listservs
4. Phone banking and calls
5. TV and radio interviews
6. Mailer
7. Save the dates!
8. Announcements
9. Factsheets
10. Fliers (multilingual)
11. Posters (3 languages)
12. Facebook
13. Twitter
14. Webpage
15. Personal invitations

Public Hearings

Georgetown



Two meetings (3:30 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.)

Food

Simultaneous interpretation in Vietnamese

Public testimony in four (4) different languages

162 attendees

Public Hearings

South Park – 1st Spanish language!



One (1) meeting (5:30 p.m.)

Food

Simultaneous interpretation for English speakers

Tickets to the Seattle Aquarium

Community-known emcee

151 attendees

Public Hearings

Town Hall (downtown Seattle)



Two meetings (2:30 p.m.
and 6:00 p.m.)

Rally

Food

Simultaneous
interpretation in Spanish

Art

Transportation

Televised

Comments corner

350 attendees



Unconventional Public Meetings and Workshops

Technical Advice workshops



For community
members ONLY

Prior to their monthly
neighborhood or
council meeting

Direct access to the
technical advisers

Prior to finalizing our
factsheet

Food

~45 attendees

Unconventional Public Meetings and Workshops

Boat and Land Tours (schools, universities, Tribes,
specific immigrant groups, etc.)



Unconventional Public Meetings and Workshops

Panel Discussion – University of Washington



In partnership with UW

**Members of: PRPs,
EPA, Ecology and DRCC**

Food

**Comments corner
(Facebook, email,
white board)**

70 attendees

Unconventional Public Meetings and Workshops

Multilingual Public Meeting and Community Workshop



In partnership with
Concord Int'l School

Four (4) different
languages

Food

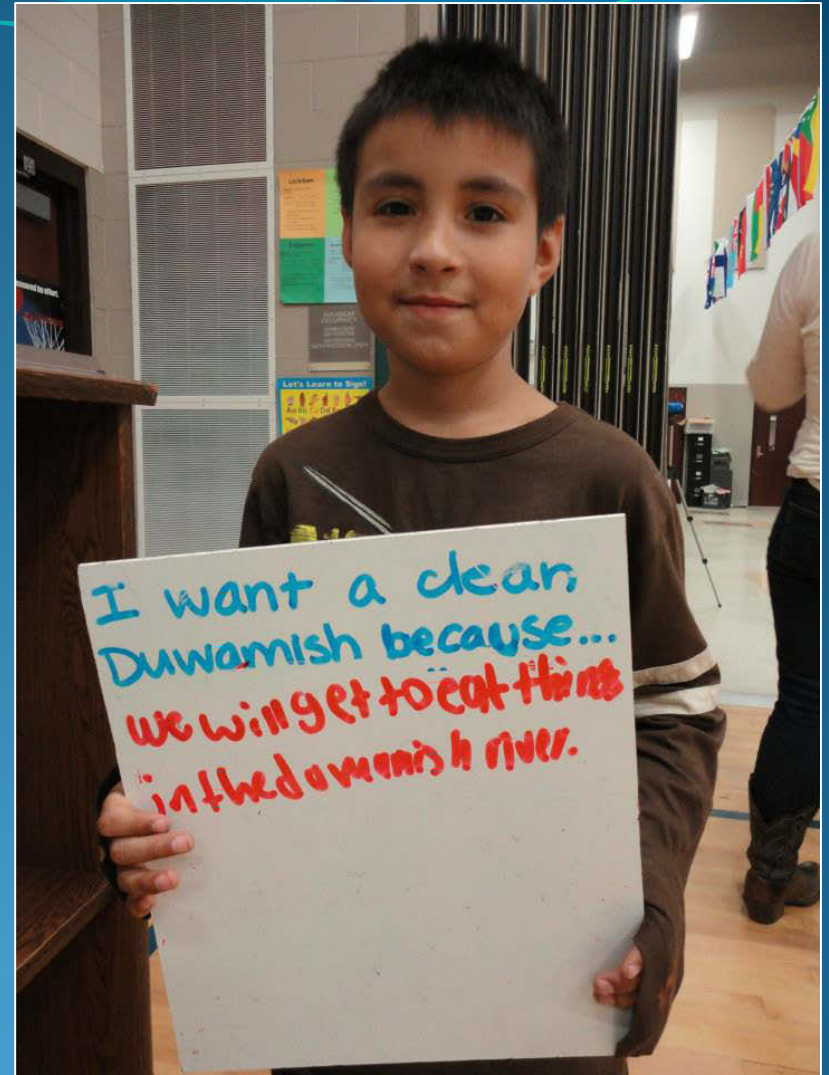
Tickets to the Seattle
Aquarium

Art

Coloring maps

Comments corner

246 attendees (~90%
submitted comments)



“Being here is like being in the United Nations!”

Unconventional Public Meetings and Workshops

The Duwamish River in 3-D



In partnership with GACC,
Duwamish Artist
Residency and Sandbox
Sports

50-foot model

Community members
presenting in six (6)
different stations

Food

Tickets to the Seattle
Aquarium

Art

Comments corner

129 attendees



Beach Volleyball

BUD LIGHT

Beach Volleyball

- Natural Recovery
- Capping
- Dredging
- Enhanced Natural Recovery

WARNING
FISH CONTAMINATED
DO NOT EAT

1) Institutional Controls

No Fishing



“Amazing job, & you are setting the bar very high for future public meetings on all topics!!!”

Public Comments collection


(verbal, written, Facebook,
photo, emails, digital, etc.)

Verbal



*****Public testimonies in (4) different languages: English, Spanish, Vietnamese and Lushootseed**

Written

 **Proposed Plan for the Lower Duwamish Waterway Superfund Site**
Comment on the Cleanup Plan

Comment(s)

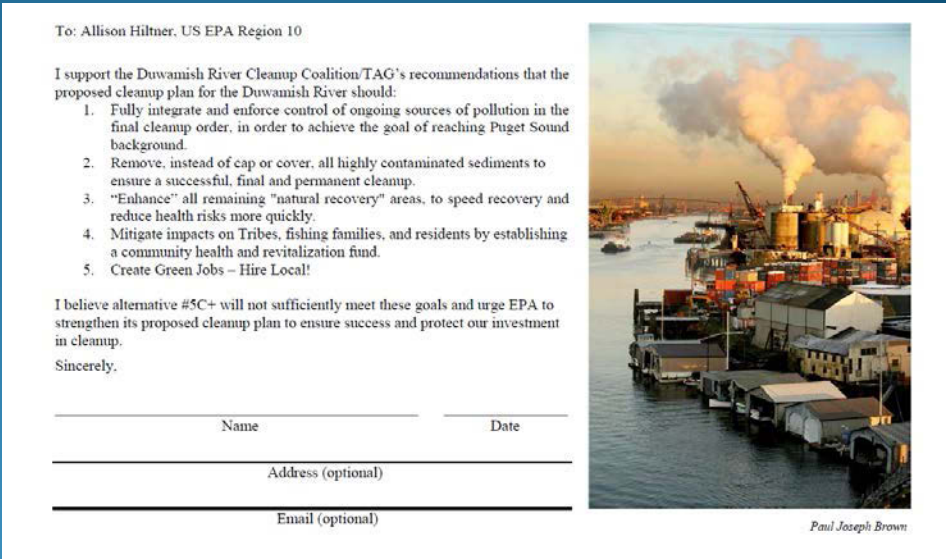
(Attach additional pages as needed)

Name _____
Address _____
City, State, Zip _____

To submit comments to the EPA, you may:
- Comment in person at any of the public meetings – for more information, visit: <http://duwamishcleanup.org/>
- Mail this comment form or other written comments to the EPA
- Email comments to: ldpc@resolv.org
- On the web: <http://www.resolv.org/site-ldpc/> or <http://on.fb.me/Y0qozz>

Comments are due to the EPA by June 13th, 2013

Template



Postcard

***Translated into three (3) different languages

Facebook

The Duwamish: A River For All

https://www.facebook.com/River4All

facebook

Settings Logout

Get More Fans

Recent Launched

See All

care y...

Port ...

was a ...

ish ...

See Your Ad Here

The Duwamish: A River For All

The EPA has released its Proposed Cleanup Plan for the Duwamish River in Seattle, WA. Post your comm...

Like · likes this.

Advertise Your Page

Recent Posts By Others

Lee Dorigan

I am very concerned that EPA, the City of Seattle, the Port of Seattle, King County, and Boeing want us to rejoice that the river will be 50% cleaned up and then be quiet. Where else in your life would you be happy with getting only 50% of the job done? I cannot think of one other place.

As chair of the Duwamish River Cleanup Coalition (DRCC), I would like to see full compliance with state Model Toxics Cleanup regulations (MTCA). As a former employee of the Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology), I have been shocked at the disdain that EPA has shown for state regulations. EPA has not even included Ecology's stormwater work as part of the cleanup plan. I would like to see full compliance with all Ecology regulations and full inclusion of all Ecology's work in EPA's plan. I echo Health Trim's comment that EPA and Ecology should "get married"

I ask that all of the contaminated sediments be removed. Natural recovery has been tried and fai...

See More

Comment · May 10 at 3:38pm

John Hettick

At one time I understand the Duwamish river system was a great habitat for fish and wildlife. With the impacts of rerouting the flow, contamination from industry /run-off, and general neglect it has become a contaminated wasteland extending up river and out past the outflow into Puget Sound. It's an abused urban river that deserves clean-up and protection. Thanks for the heads up Joey

Comment · May 8 at 11:18pm

Duwamish River in 3...jpg

Duwamish River in 3...jpg

Duwamish River in 3...jpg

Duwamish River in 3...jpg

Show all downloads...

7:02 PM 7/29/2013

Photo Comments

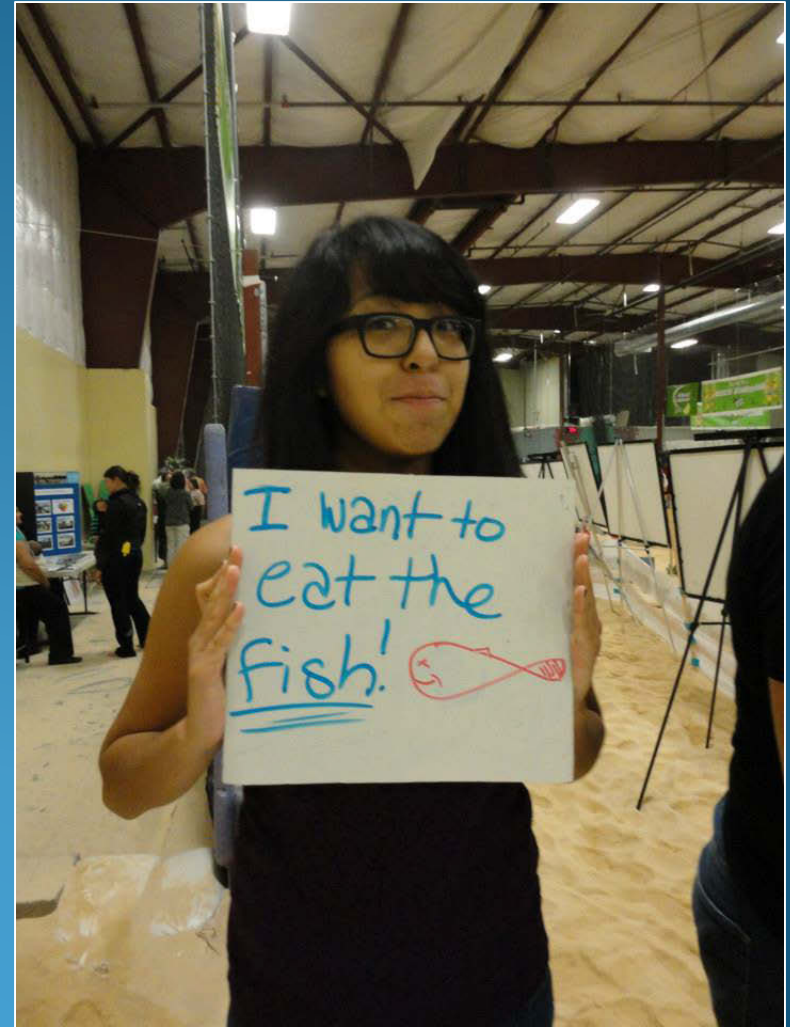
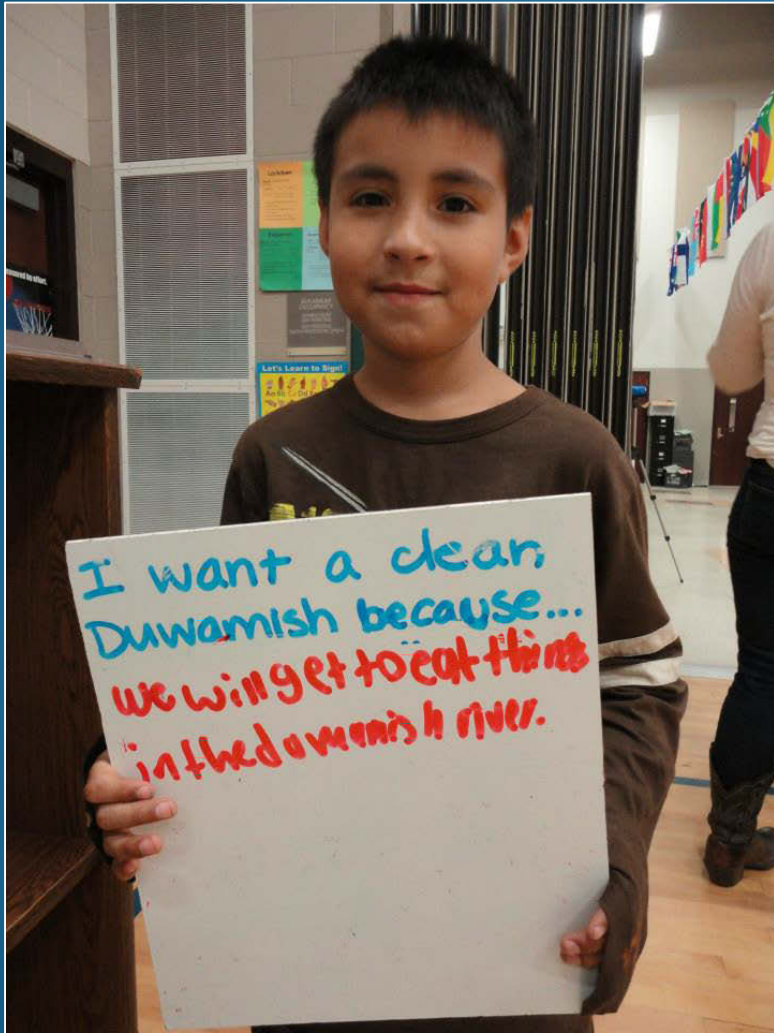
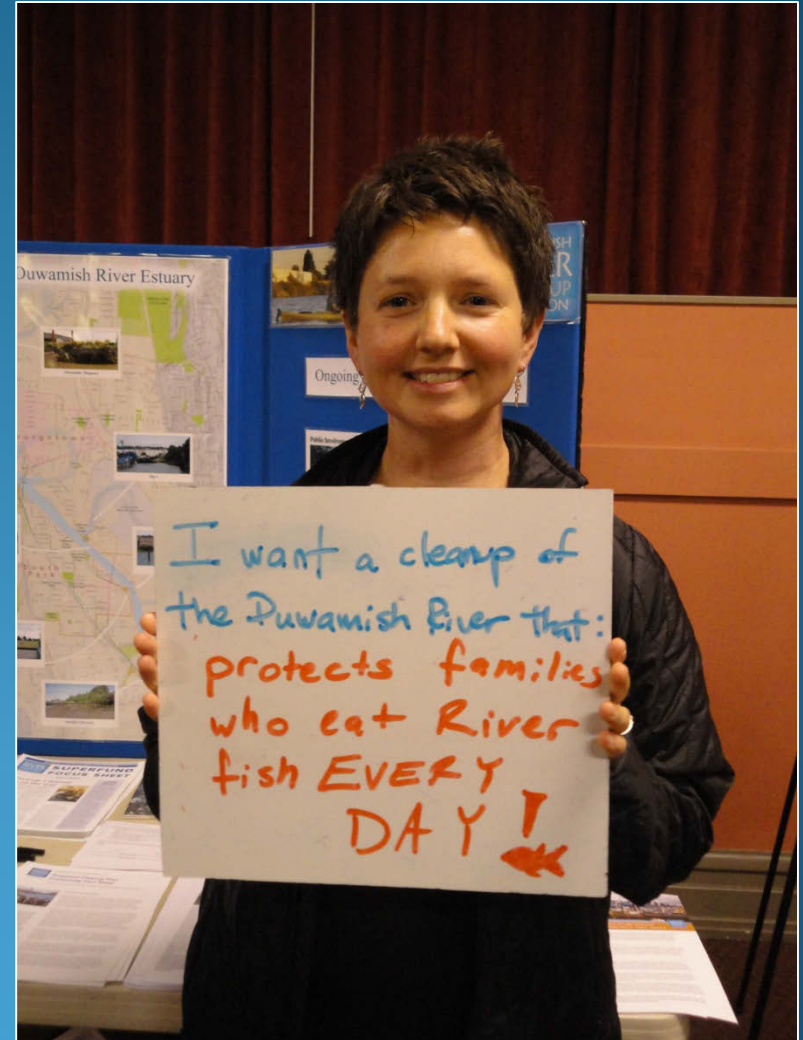
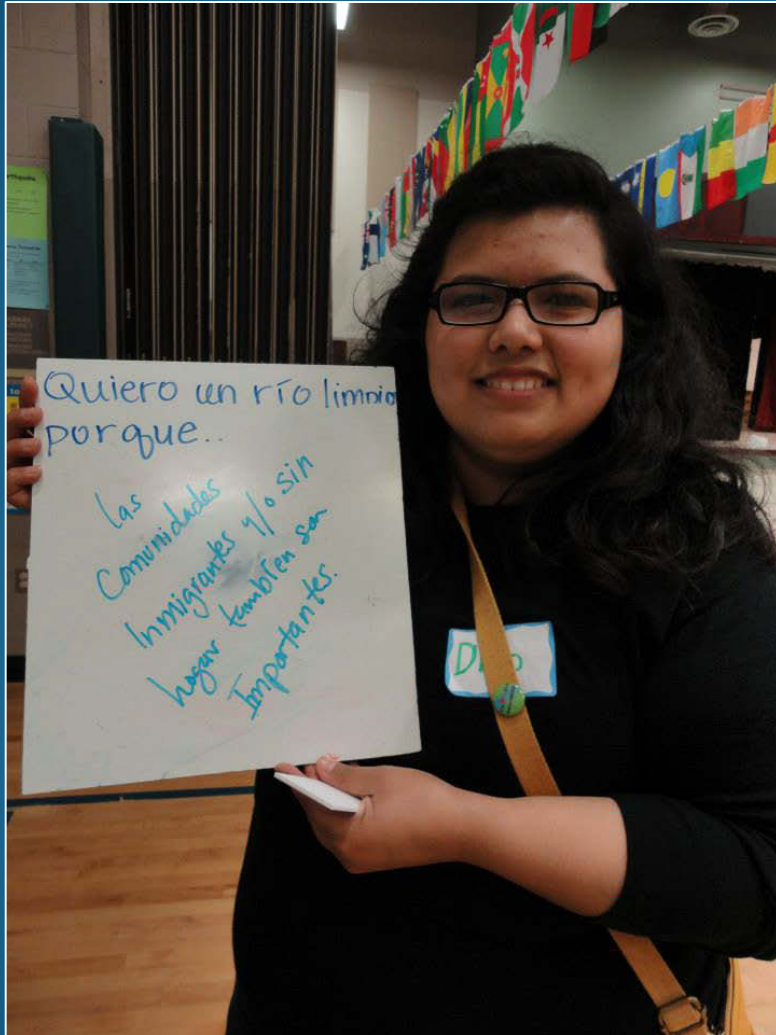


Photo Comments



Emails

The screenshot shows a web browser window with several tabs open. The active tab is 'Duwamish River Cleanup'. The address bar shows the URL: org2.salsalabs.com/o/5168/p/dia/action/public/?action_KEY=14155. The page content includes a navigation menu on the left, a main article titled 'A River For All!', a form for submitting comments, and a sidebar with 'Upcoming Events' and 'Recent News'.

Technical Advisory Group

- Home
- About
- Superfund Info
- Get Involved
- Programs
- News/Media
- Calendar
- Resources
- Contact Us

A River For All!

The Duwamish, Seattle's only river, has been declared a Superfund Site by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA): one of the most hazardous waste sites in the nation. Today, its health and future are at a critical moment. Affected communities and residents of the greater Seattle area only have until June 13 to provide their comments, input and concerns regarding EPA's proposed plan.

This is our only opportunity to ensure a cleanup that protects everyone's health and ensures environmental justice – A River for All: you, residents of the area, Tribal and subsistence fishermen, fish, wildlife, business, industry and workers. All of us will be affected by how well EPA's plan cleans up Seattle's only river.

Please scroll down to personalize your message and submit your comments to EPA and your elected officials.

Subject:

Your Letter:

EPA's Proposed River Cleanup Plan Now Available

Upcoming Events

- The Duwamish River in 3-D
May 23, 2013 6:00 pm
- EPA Public Hearing on Proposed River Cleanup Plan
May 29, 2013 2:00 pm
- Duwamish River Festival / Festival del Rio Duwamish
August 17, 2013 12:00 pm

[View All Events](#)

Recent News

- With focus on toxics, Duwamish cleanup could leave other health problems unsolved
- New report released on health impacts of Duwamish River cleanup
- Time to speak out is now on \$305m Duwamish Cleanup Plan

Taskbar: Duwamish River in 3...jpg (4 instances), Show all downloads...
System tray: 7:13 PM 7/29/2013

Results



3,350+ (1,270+)



2,300+



10

**Is this good
enough?**

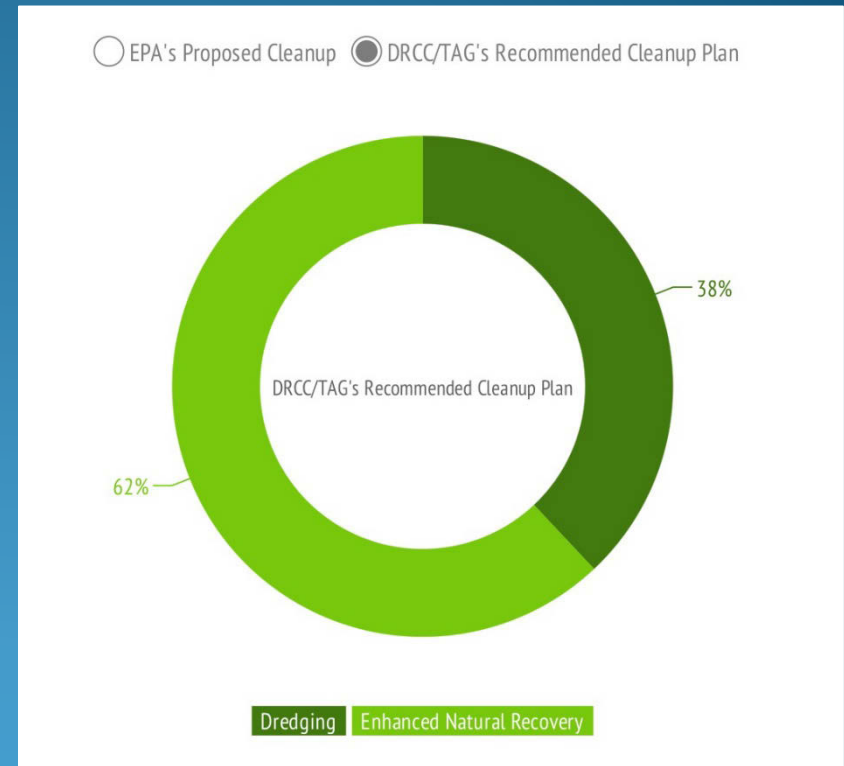
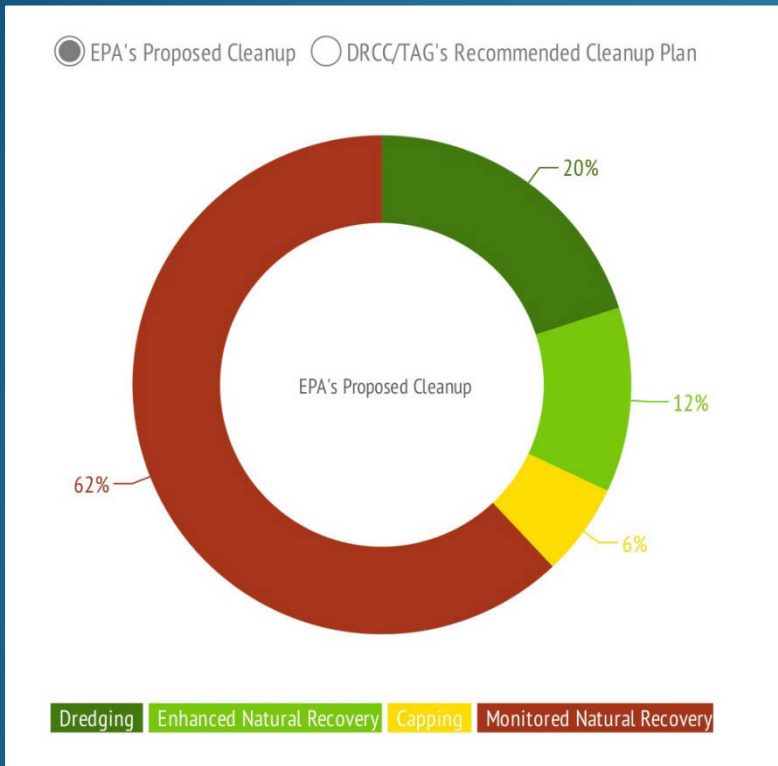
The community doesn't seem to think so...

○ EPA's Proposed Cleanup ● DRCC/TAG's Recommended Cleanup Plan

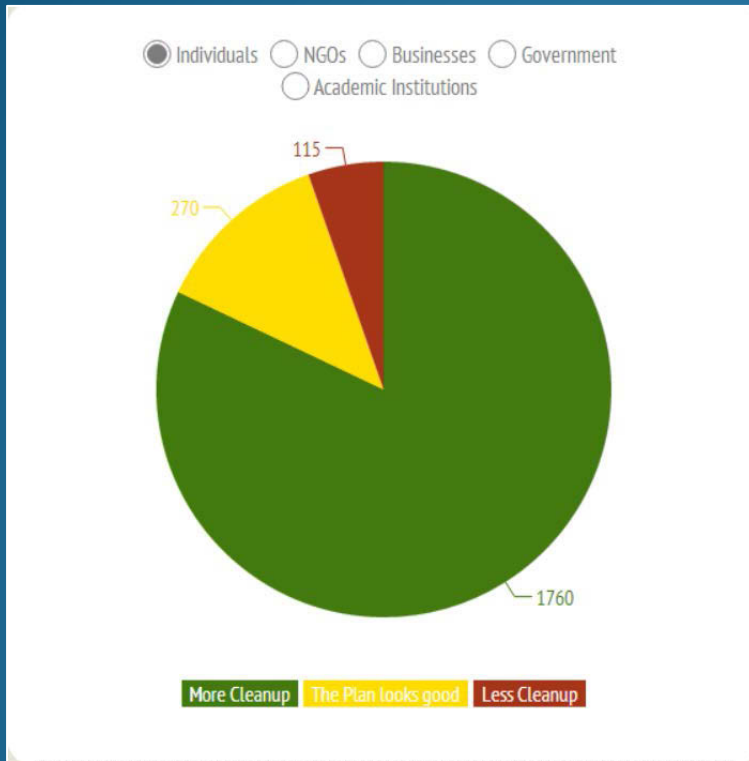


Dredging | Enhanced Natural Recovery

The community doesn't seem to think so...



The community doesn't seem to think so...



**Where are
we now?**

EPA has been busy...

The “black box”



We've been busy...

Meeting with elected officials



We've been busy...

Meeting PRPs

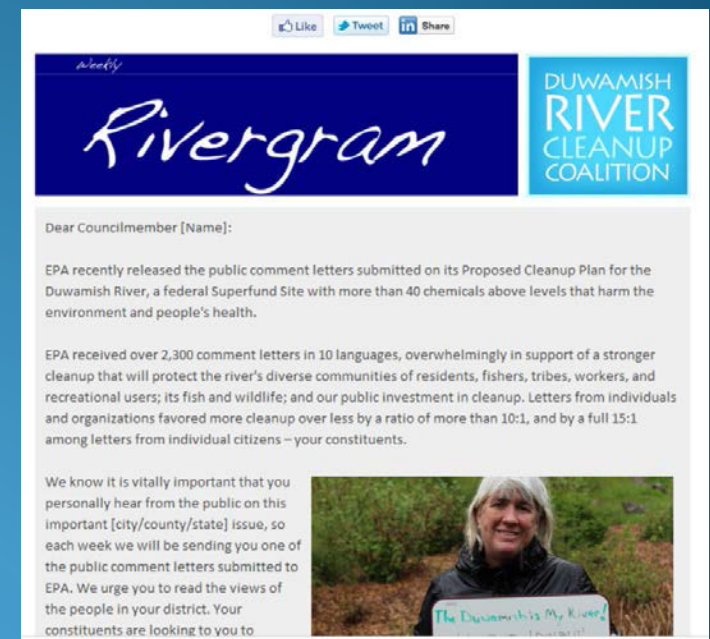


We've been busy...

Sending “friendly” reminders (to EPA and elected officials)



From the community



From DRCC/TAG

We've been busy...

Unveiling a social media campaign - The Duwamish is my River



We've been busy...

Preparing for the next phase(s?) of the Healthy Communities Projects and implementation of HIA recommendations



March 2014

DUWAMISH RIVER CLEANUP COALITION
Technical Advisory Group

Duwamish Valley Healthy Communities Project: Fact Sheet 3

210 S. Hudson St., Suite 332, Seattle, WA 98134 • 206.954.0218 • contact@duwamishcleanup.org

Duwamish neighbors work together to build a HEALTHY COMMUNITY

In 2013, South Park and Georgetown residents were convened by the Duwamish River Cleanup Coalition/TAG (DRCC) and selected five projects to be funded and implemented through the Duwamish Valley Healthy Communities Project, coordinated by DRCC and funded by the Environmental Protection Agency's CARE (Community Action for a Renewed Environment) Program.

DRCC also awarded three additional mini-grants for self-selected initiatives by Latino youth, Vietnamese residents, and a local homeless encampment.

Check out how much these amazing projects accomplished with this funding in just one year!

>> REDUCING POLLUTION

Neighbors removed more than one ton of trash from local streets and parks in family-friendly cleanup events organized by Puget Soundkeeper Alliance

Volunteers joined the South Park Area Redevelopment Committee to plant 20 new street trees in and around South Park's Rose Street rain gardens

South Park cleanup day

Rain garden tree planting

We hope for...



Questions?



Thank you!



Technical Advisory Group